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AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 4 March 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as current Chairman of the group of countries members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, I have the honour to enclose, attached to this letter, the statement that was issued following the special meeting of the group that was convened on 4 March 1993 to consider the deteriorating situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex). This meeting was also attended by the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Alija Izetbegovic, and by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Haris Silajdzic.

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 143, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa AKŞIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement of 4 March 1993 by the Chairman of the group of Member States of the United Nations that are members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

A special meeting of the delegations of the Member States of the United Nations that are members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference was convened in New York on 4 March 1993 to hear a statement by His Excellency Alija Izetbegovic, President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to discuss the grave situation arising from the continuing massacres committed by the Serb paramilitary units in the region of eastern Bosnia.

President Izetbegovic made a statement explaining the grim situation in his country, which continues to be victimized by brutal Serbian aggression. He informed the delegations of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in eastern Bosnia and the atrocities and massacres to which the Muslim population is being subjected. He also briefed the delegations about the state of the negotiations being carried out in New York.

The meeting thanked President Izetbegovic for his statement. The meeting also expressed its outrage and grave concern at the continuing aggression of Serbian paramilitary forces against the Muslim population in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in particular in eastern Bosnia. The meeting strongly condemned the suffering inflicted on innocent civilians through long months of siege followed now by more ethnic cleansing and massacres. The meeting called for an immediate cease-fire and an end to the Serbian aggression, reversal of all consequences of ethnic cleansing and an end to the grave violations of international humanitarian law. The meeting noted the prompt reaction of the Security Council and called on it to ensure immediate and full compliance with its relevant resolutions and the presidential statement of 3 March 1993, through concrete enforcement actions.

The meeting recalled Security Council resolution 770 (1992), wherein the Council called upon States to take, nationally or through regional agencies or arrangements, all measures necessary to facilitate in coordination with the United Nations the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The meeting gave its full support to President Izetbegovic and the delegation of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the negotiations being conducted in New York by the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. The meeting noted with appreciation the flexibility demonstrated by the Bosnian Government in its endeavour to reach an honourable, just and equitable settlement that would fully preserve the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meeting also called on the leaders of the other parties to fully cooperate with the Co-Chairmen and refrain from adopting positions and pursuing policies that would undermine the negotiations.